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Justice to release Barbie report

The Justice Department has completed a five-month investigation into whether U.S. intelligence officers shielded Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie after World War II, sources said yesterday.

The department is expected to release the 200-page report today. It is based in part on interviews with former Army counterintelligence officers who claim Barbie was hired as an informant despite his Nazi war record.

The former Gestapo officer, known as the "Butcher of Lyons," eluded French prosecutors until last February, when he was extradited from Bolivia to France.

Barbie, 69, is now in a French prison awaiting trial on charges that, while chief of the Gestapo in Lyons from 1942 to 1944, he ordered the murder of 4,000 French Jews and deported 7,500 others to Nazi concentration camps.